

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

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- There are areas called buffers directly adjoining wetlands and watercourses that are also regulated by the EPC. Please stop by or call the Planning and Zoning Department at Town Hall to see if there are wetlands on your property BEFORE you begin any home improvement project.
- Take care of Darien's wetlands.
- Plant native wetland species in your wetlands. Avoid invasive plants.
- Use only environmentally friendly fertilizers and pesticides.
- DO NOT throw old paint, oil or other wastes into or near any waterway, or storm drains.
- Learn more about the importance of wetlands.



**Darien Town Hall  
2 Renshaw Road  
Planning and Zoning Office 656-7351  
[www.ci.darien.ct.us](http://www.ci.darien.ct.us)**

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Related internet sites -  
[www.dep.state.ct.us](http://www.dep.state.ct.us)  
[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands)  
[www.ci.darien.ct.us](http://www.ci.darien.ct.us)



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Darien Environmental Protection Commission  
2 Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820

# DARIEN

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### COMMISSION



**WE'RE HERE FOR ALL  
FOR ALL TIME**

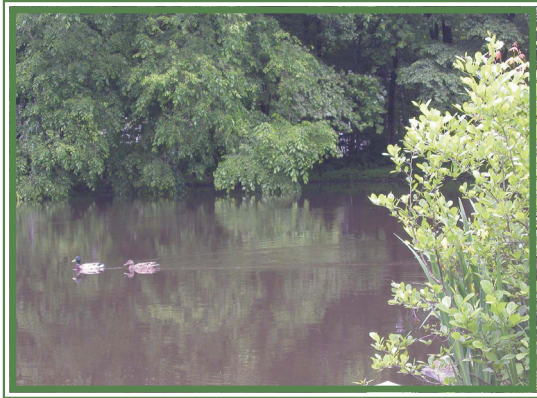
## WHO WE ARE

The Darien Environmental Protection Commission, (EPC) is really two commissions in one. It is the regulatory Inland Wetland Commission mandated by the State and it is also the Town's advisory Conservation Commission.

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The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency of the Town of Darien was originally established in accordance with an ordinance adopted Sept. 24, 1973. It then became part of the EPC by an ordinance adopted May 12, 1986.

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The Commissioners who sit on Darien's EPC are volunteer Town citizens appointed by the Selectmen.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What Are Wetlands?*



Wetlands in Connecticut are solely defined by soil type. Simply, they are areas where water covers the soil or is present at or near the surface, all year or parts of the year. Wetlands can be lawns and forests, as well as swamps and marshes.

### *What Are Watercourses?*

Watercourses are rivers, streams, brooks, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and drainage ditches. Watercourses can have water year round or just part of the year.



### *Why Are They So Important?*



Wetlands are flood busters. They act as great sponges absorbing and releasing water slowly. By slowing surface runoff, wetlands help prevent erosion. Wetlands are water purifiers. They provide conditions for removal of nitrogen and phosphorous from surface water. They improve ground water quality by removing or retaining inorganic nutrients, processing organic wastes and reducing suspended sediments.

### *They Are Home To Creatures Large And Small*

## WHAT WE DO

As the Inland Wetlands Commission, EPC's job is to review applications for any activity in or abutting wetlands or watercourses. This includes building activity, paving, installation of pools, as well as planting or removal of trees and other vegetation.

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As the Conservation Commission, our mandate is to protect, preserve and maintain our natural resources. The EPC always attempts to balance the need for economic growth and development in our community against the need to protect our fragile wetland ecosystem. Our efforts will hopefully preserve this valuable natural resource for the benefit and enjoyment of Darien citizens for generations to come.